

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 and 10 stand withdrawn. By this Amendment, the Abstract and claim 7 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 were filed on December 21, 2004. Applicants respectfully request return of an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 indicating receipt and consideration of the reference listed thereon. A courtesy copy of the Information Disclosure Statement is attached.

II. Specification

Although not objected to, the Abstract of the specification is amended to remove reference numbers and legal phraseology.

III. Restriction Requirement

The restriction of claims 1-10 is again traversed. It is alleged in the Office Action that the article of claim 10 (Group II) can be made by another and materially different process from that recited in claims 7-9 (Group III). However, as claim 10 specifically recites a metal-ceramic composite member manufactured by a method for manufacturing a metal-ceramic composite member according to claim 7, the product as claimed cannot be made by another and materially different process because the claim specifically requires the product to be made by the process of claim 7. Accordingly, at least withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement of claim 10 from claims 7-9 is requested.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 07-276035 (JP '035). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP '035 fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims as originally filed, or as further clarified as currently amended. For example, JP '035 fails to

disclose a method for manufacturing a metal-ceramic composite member, comprising placing a ceramic member in a mold member ... wherein the molten metal to be joined is poured while the mold member is passing through a passage member, with a ceramic member placed in the mold member, extending along a plurality of process regions. Thus, in the pending claims, the mold member having a ceramic member placed within the mold passes through a passage member that extends along a plurality of process regions.

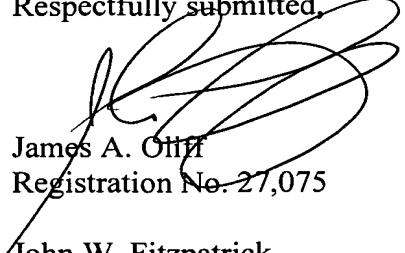
JP '035 merely discloses a ceramic member that moves through a mold 6 and is wetted with molten metal as it passes through the crucible 7 (see Fig. 1 of JP '035). As shown in Fig. 1, each ceramic member 2 passes through a die entry side 6A to enter a molten metal bath 1 in the crucible 7 and continues through the die exit side 6B as a metal ceramic compound. Thus, it is only the ceramic member that moves through the passage in JP '035. In contrast, the pending claims recite that it is a mold member that passes through the passage member and the ceramic member is placed within the mold member that passes through the passage along a plurality of process regions. Accordingly, JP '035 fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

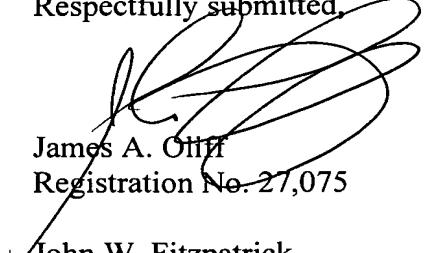
V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:JWF/ldg

Attachments:

Amended Abstract

Courtesy copy of the December 21, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 10, 2005

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